(b) The information is very exhaustive which may easily be accessed at Central Silk Board web site at web address: *http://www.indiansilk.kar.nic.in*

Promotion of textile industry in country

1207. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are envisaging any plan for developing and promoting textile industry in the country; and

(b) if so, whether it will guarantee some employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government is implementing schemes like Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Scheme for Integrated Textiles Park (SITP), Mill Gate Price Scheme (MGPS) and Technology Mission schemes, namely Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) and Jute Technology Mission (JTM) to facilitate Indian textiles industry to grow at the rate of 16 percent in value terms to reach level of US$ 115 billion (comprising of US$ 55 billion of exports and US$ 60 billion of domestic market) and attain 7 percent share in global textile trade by the terminal year of the Eleventh Plan period. These will generate ample employment opportunities.

Condition of weavers of Uttar Pradesh

1208. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are over two lakh weavers in and around the holy city of Varanasi but less than 55,000 get a job in a year leaving the remaining 1.5 lakh weavers jobless;

(b) whether Government are also aware that till June, 2007, 50 adults and children had starved to death and 70 to 80 per cent handlooms had shut down;

(c) what concrete measures Government have taken to improve the lot of weavers of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) how Government plan to provide remunerative prices to weavers due to tough competition posed by globalization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that as per an estimate, there are approximately 2.00 lakh weavers in Varanasi out of which about 1.00 lakh weavers are primarily engaged in the weaving work while rest of them are engaged in allied activities of weaving such as dyeing of yarn, warping, card punching, designing etc. As such, workers engaged in allied activities are not able to get whole time work.

(b) State Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that there is no report of death of 50 adults and children due to starvation. There is also no report of closure of 70 to 80 per cent handlooms in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The Office of the Developmmt Commissioner for Handloom, Ministry of Textiles is implementing a number of schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and to enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skills and providing infrastructural input and marketing support all over the country including Uttar Pradesh. The main developmental schemes implemented during Tenth Plan Period were Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), Integrated Handloom Training Project, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers Welfare Scheme and Handloom Export Scheme. Besides, Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (IHCD), Mahatarna Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna and Health Insurance Scheme were launched in the year 2005-06 and Handloom Mark was launched in the year 2006-07.

During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, following schemes are proposed for development of handloom sector:-

(i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme

(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

(iii) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

Besides, the Government of India is implementing the cluster development programme in four clusters in Uttar Pradesh, namely Varanasi, Mubarakpur, Barabanki and Bijnor. Besides, diagnostic studies of ten new clusters have been conducted for development of these handloom clusters in Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has also made a budget provision of Rs. 20.10 crore for the welfare and development of weavers.

(d) In order to enable the prices of products of Handloom weavers to be remunerative in view of the competition posed by globalization, the Government of India has been providing assistance to eligible Handloom agencies under schemes like Mill Gate Price Scheme, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana and 10% Rebate Scheme etc.